

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-7 are amended. In particular, independent claim 1 is amended to clarify the method steps and claims 2-7, which depend from claim 1, are amended to be consistent with amended claim 1. Additionally, claims 1-7 are further amended for form in accordance with U.S. patent practice. Thus, no new matter is added.

In view of at least the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-7. As discussed, by this Amendment, claims 1-7 are amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the objection to the claims and the §112, second paragraph, rejection of the claims. Thus, claims 1-7 in condition for allowance.

II. Objection to Claims 1-7

The Office Action objects to claims 1-7 because of improper spacing between the claims. This objection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended claims 1-7 to provide proper spacing between the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1-7 is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that independent claim 1 is indefinite because: 1) the preamble of claim 1 recites a method, but the body of the claim 1 recites structure; and 2) the relationship between "the information" to be stored in line 8 and the stamping pattern is unclear. Claim 1 is amended to clarify the method steps. Claim 1 is also amended to clarify

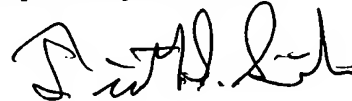
that the stamping pattern corresponds to the binary information to be stored. Claims 2-7, which depend from claim 1, are also amended to be consistent with amended claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1-7 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 is thus respectfully requested. Further, Applicants submit that claims 1-7 are now allowable, as the Office Action indicated on page 3 that claims 1-7 would be allowed if amended to overcome the §112 rejection.

IV. Conclusion

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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